

REMARKS

In the Office action dated April 10, 2009, claims 11, 13-17, 19 and 20 are rejected. Claims 11, 13, 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,151,178 to Nickerson et al. (hereafter "Nickerson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,740,019 to Kessell et al (hereafter "Kessell"). Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nickerson in view of Kessell and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,635,683 to Neilson (hereafter "Neilson"). Claims 1-10 have been cancelled.

Amended Claims 11 and 17 are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited combination of Nickerson and Kessel. More particularly, Kessel does not disclose first and second sealing surfaces "wherein the first sealing surface and the second sealing surface are substantially parallel when said plunger is in said open position." As noted in the detailed description of this application at paragraph [0016], the angled underside of spring 36 in Kessell is undesirable because of the particle generation caused when such angled underside is deformed, rendering the teachings of Kessel completely opposed to the teachings of the present application. Claims 11 and 17 and their dependent claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, respectfully request the allowance thereof. If, however, the Examiner should for any reason consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this request. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 19-3140, under Order No. 11000054-0033 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 4, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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